

Remarks

Prior to the Election/Restriction Requirement claims 1-46 and 69-82 were pending. After amendment as described in the Amendment to the Claims listing of claims above, claims 1-12, 24-37 and 45 are pending and claims 13-23, 38-44, 46, 69-82 are withdrawn.

The Election/Restriction Requirement dated February 10, 2006 received for this application states that the subject application contains claims directed to five patentably distinct species as follows:

Embodiment 1 of claims 1-12, 24-37 and 45

Embodiment 2 of claims 13-23, and 69-76

Embodiment 3 of claims 38-43 and 46

Embodiment 4 of claim 44; and

Embodiment 5 of claims 77-82.

In response to the election requirement, applicant hereby elects, with traverse, embodiment 1 containing claims 1-12, 24-37 and 45. The Election/Restriction Requirement also stated that claim 1 is generic.

Applicant's election is made without prejudice. As noted by the Examiner, upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.

Applicant maintains that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider the pending claims and issue a Notice of Allowance for the pending claims.

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Respectfully submitted,

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